consideration of the House. When we met in the Business Advisory Committee, we had allocated one hour each to three pieces of legislation. Today, being the last day of the Session, we also have two important discussions, which have been raised by the Private Members. If my colleagues agree, we can pass these Bills without much discussion. These are Bills to replace to Ordinances which have already been in operation and the very nature of these Bills is, innocuous; one is already being replaced after its effect is over, and the other two Bills are just to recoup the Contingency Fund of India and another to give tax exemption for the contributions made towards the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. So, the time, which will be saved on these three Bills, could be allotted to two other important discussions—one is on diesel price hike and the other is on cyclone. By doing, so, I think, we can do justice to these two important discussions, because new Members have been sworn in and they are interested in taking part in these discussions. This is my submission for your consideration and for the consideration of the Leader of the House.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I would also be grateful if the three Bills are passed without any discussion because there are two important discussions; one is on flood situation and the other is on diesel price hike. Now, again, we have the same—flood—situation in Orissa and many hon. Members would like to take part in the discussion. Then, we have a discussion on the diesel price hike. Apart from these two discussions, there are two important statements to be made by the Minister of External Affairs. So, I would really be grateful to the House if it accepts and passes these three Bills without any discussion.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, one more suggestion for the consideration of the House. There are also two statements.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes. We will take them up.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Can we take them up first; and, then can we take up the discussion on flood situation and diesel price hike?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You, please, take them up later on. Let us have the discussion on flood situation and diesel price hike first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Yashwant Sinha.

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill, seeks to replace the Income Tax Amendment Ordinance, 1999 (Ord. 7 of 1999), which was promulgated on the 1st July, 1999. The armed intrusion in Kargil and the surrounding areas by a neighbouring country posed a severe threat to the security of our country. The defence forces of our country were engaged in meeting this threat against heavy odds. While discharging their duty, some members of the defence forces suffered serious injuries while others laid down their lives for the country. The families of the personnel, who made supreme sacrifices, deserve our full support. With a view to mobilize maximum funds for the benefit of the members of the defence forces and their families, donations made to the National Defence Fund were made fully deductible under the Income Tax Act by promulgating an Ordinance on the 1st July, 1999. The Lok Sabha has already passed the Bill. Now, I place the Bill for consideration of this House. The same may be considered and returned.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Sanatan Bisi)] In the Chair

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Since there is no discussion, I am putting the motion to vote.
The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend to Income Tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now we will take up clause-by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, the Bill has been passed, but a number of people, like widows and their families, have not received their dues. I would like to request the hon. Minister to please see that they get their dues. If it is too late, the whole purpose of it will be defeated.

THE CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, we will take up the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Bill, 1999. Mr. Yashwant Sinha to move the Motion.